

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 97

By Ragan

A RESOLUTION to commemorate the eighty-fifth anniversary of the Anderson County Chamber of Commerce.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this legislative body commend those long-standing organizations that work to promote the commercial success of their communities and this State; and

WHEREAS, one such noteworthy organization is the Anderson County Chamber of Commerce, which is celebrating its eighty-fifth anniversary this year; and

WHEREAS, Anderson County has reaped the rewards of entrepreneurs who invested in the community's development and enabled the creation of economic organizations, all of which was made easier through the guidance and networking of its chamber of commerce; and

WHEREAS, in 1932, ten businessmen gathered to form the Clinton Businessmen's Association and called it the Clinton Chamber of Commerce; and

WHEREAS, in 1934, monthly meetings were held in the Chamber's office in the Clinton Federal Savings and Loan Association building on modern-day Market Street. The issues of the day involved recruiting a laundry, soliciting farms for sale for people who were to be displaced by the construction of the Norris Dam, determining the feasibility of establishing a local hospital, developing plans for an airport, and prohibiting outdoor toilets in town; and

WHEREAS, the City of Clinton was one of the first communities in the south to see its high school desegregated, and in 1956, the Chamber took a strong position to support the process of integration despite facing demonstrations, acts of vandalism, and threats against business owners who were Chamber members; and

WHEREAS, the Chamber was renamed the Greater Clinton Chamber of Commerce in 1971. The name was later changed to the Anderson County Chamber of Commerce in 1984 to reflect the Chamber's now county-wide services; and

WHEREAS, in 1986, the Chamber moved to a joint suite at 245 North Main Street, Suite 200, where it remains to this very day; and

WHEREAS, a host of luminaries have spoken to the Chamber throughout the years at various functions, including *Roots* author, Alex Haley; editorial cartoonist, Charlie Daniels; Olympic gold medalist, Jim Dunbar; local news anchors, Russel Biven and Beth Haynes; radio and television host, Haller in Hilton Hill; "Voice of the Vols," Bob Kesling; Senator Lamar Alexander; Governor Bill Haslam; and former Senator and Vice President, Al Gore, Jr.; and

WHEREAS, the Chamber has been guided by the steady hand and exemplary leadership of a number of presidents over these eighty-five years, including R.C. "Dudley" Hoskins (the first president), Thomas L. Seeber, Hazel Carden (the first female president), Frank Carmichael, Bernadette Highfill, Greta Stoutt, Kathleen DeLozier, Brian Jenkins, Jackie Nichols, and Rick Meredith (the current president); and

WHEREAS, the Chamber has hosted and sponsored a variety of events, activities, and functions throughout the county, including the Anderson County Bicentennial celebration, Annual Small Business Expo, Annual May Day celebration, Annual Health Run, Anderson County Boat Show, Annual Golf Classic, Annual Clinch River Softball Classic, Walleye Tournament, Clinton Centennial Birthday Party, Annual Teacher Appreciation Banquet, "Let's Do Business" Expo, Ladies Holiday Expo, Spring Antique Fair, Today's Woman Expo, and the County Retail Development Initiative; and

WHEREAS, what started as a small chamber of ten members has expanded to boast a membership of 510 members in the Anderson County Chamber of Commerce; and

WHEREAS, it is wholly fitting that we recognize the Anderson County Chamber of Commerce for its eighty-five years of tireless work in promoting the economic growth of its community; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED TENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby commemorate the eighty-fifth anniversary of the Anderson County Chamber of Commerce and extend to the Chamber, its members, and its partners our best wishes for continued success in all future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.